

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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USSS-00 /101 W

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R 131430Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7604
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0986

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, CY
SUBJECT: KYPRIANOU REJECTS CALL FOR MILITIA, URGES CALM

REF: NICOSIA 965

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN PUBLIC ADDRESS APRIL 12 PRESIDENT
KYPRIANOU ASSURED PEOPLE OF CYPRUS THAT GOVERNMENT WAS IN
FULL CONTROL OF INTERNAL SITUATION AND EMPHASIZED THAT
SECURITY FORCES DID NOT NEED ASSISTANCE FROM ARMED GROUPS.
SPEAKING BEFORE GATHERING OF CYPRUS NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS,
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KYPRIANOU SAID "THE STATE HAS NO NEED OF ARMED GROUPS.
IT ONLY NEEDS THE TROOPS AND THE SECURITY FORCES AND
NOTHING ELSE; AND THIS IS ADDRESSED TO ALL SIDES."

2. REFERRING TO RECENT ARRESTS OF SUSPECTED SUBVER-
SIVES (REFTEL), NUMBER OF WHICH HAS NOW GROWN TO 23 AND
INCLUDES AN OFFICER AND TWO MEN OF CNG AND A POLICEMAN,

KYPRIANOU TOLD HIS AUDIENCE A SOLDIER'S MISSION WAS TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE AND AVOID PARTISAN ACTIVITIES. HE ASSURED PEOPLE OF CYPRUS THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM AND APPEALED TO "ALL PARTIES, CAMPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INFORMATION MEDIA" TO REFRAIN FROM EXACERBATING THE SITUATION.

3. IN SIMILAR VEIN, ATTORNEY GENERAL TORNARITIS ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENT APRIL 12 CAUTIONING PRESS AGAINST AROUSING TENSIONS AND PUBLISHING REPORTS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT POLICE INVESTIGATIONS OF SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT. ONE PURPOSE OF KYPRIANOU'S ADDRESS WAS TO DAMPEN DOWN PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT RECENT ARRESTS. IN PAST FEW DAYS, SENSATIONALIST PAPERS, ESPECIALLY ON THE LEFT, HAVE ACCUSED FOREIGN AGENTS (U.S., GERMAN, ISRAELI) OF BEING BEHIND SUBVERSIVE PLOT TO CREATE CHAOS IN CYPRUS AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT NATIONAL GUARD AND POLICE HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED BY PLOTTERS. KYPRIANOU APPARENTLY THOUGHT SITUATION WAS GETTING OUT OF HAND. EQUALLY IMPORTANT WAS KYPRIANOU'S WARNING AGAINST FORMATION OF "ARMED GROUPS." FOR SOME TIME, SOCIALIST (EDEK) PARTY, ECHOED BY COMMUNISTS (AKEL), HAVE URGED FORMATION OF PEOPLE'S MILITIA TO HELP COMBAT "LAWLESSNESS ON THE RIGHT." THIS IDEA, CONFIDENTIAL

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OF COURSE, HAS ALARMED THE RESPECTABLE RIGHT, WHICH HAS URGED KYPRIANOU TO MAKE CLEAR THAT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AGAINST ARMED GROUPS APPLIES EQUALLY TO THE LEFT. THIS IS CLEAREST STATEMENT KYPRIANOU HAS MADE AGAINST FORMATION OF A MILITIA.
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